Ordnance Survey of Scotland.—A memorial to the Lords of the Treasury has been agreed to by the Edinburgh Council, complaining of the state of this survey and the smallness of sums still granted for carrying it on, and urging their lordships to grant such annual sums as may be necessary to complete the survey in a reasonable period. The memorialists in doing so remark, that "besides the large staff of engineers formerly employed in Ireland, and now available, many hundreds of well-educated civil engineers and surveyors, trained to habits of accuracy and activity during the execution of railway projects, may at once be engaged, if funds were provided;" and that the object in view be attained within ten years from this date. The estimated sum necessary to complete the survey of Scotland, on the large scale now in progress, is 120,000*l.*; but add the memorialists, "it can be shown that a large portion of this sum may be saved to the country, not only without loss, but with the greatest possible advantage, for it is calculated that probably not more than one-half the amount would be required to produce a properly-shaded map on the scale of one inch and a mile, that is necessary for an outline map on the large scale..... which will, practically speaking, serve no purpose whatever, and which in no foreign country has been deemed necessary."

Railway Axles: Infringement of Patent Right.—A case of patent-law importance was lately tried at Castle Lancashire Assizes. The plaintiff was Mr. Newton, of Chancery-lane, and the defendant Baron (or James) Vaucher. On 15th May, 1843, Mr. Newton took out a patent for a Mr. Babbitt, of the United States, for a soft metal bearing for axles, preventing the metal becoming overheated. In 1849, Vaucher pretended to discover things patent of him taken out in 1836, embraced Mr. Newton's improvement, and he accordingly took out a patent, and made axles similar, to prevent which the present action was brought, proving that Vaucher's first patent was for securing a steam or water-tight joint, and had no relation to friction. The judge said, if a man took out a patent for a certain purpose, and did not suggest others, then the man who applied similar means to another purpose would be an inventor. It was certainly strange that defendant should take out a patent in 1849 for doing what he was entitled to do by a patent of 1838. The jury gave a verdict for plaintiff on all the counts, but nominal damages were agreed to.

A Strange Nuisance.—At the Surrey Assizes, at Kingston, the cause of "Mackley *v.* Smith," was tried before the Lord Chief-Justice. The defendant, who had purchased a piece of land of the plaintiff, had caused a number of scaffolds to be erected upon his piece of land, and from these were suspended tea-kettles, teaboards, watering-pots, bonnet-boxes, horses' and bullocks' heads, and also a figure representing Maria Manning, all for the purpose of annoying. It appeared that the noise and jingling of these articles when the wind blew was such as to create the greatest possible annoyance to the other tenants of the plaintiff. In course of the case the lid was suddenly lifted from a large box, which exhibited a model, the sight of which convulsed the court with laughter, and the Lord Chief-Justice, who was unable to refrain from joining in the laugh, observed that the model ought to be sent to the Exhibition,—as a specimen of industrious malignity, or ingenuity. The jury returned a verdict for 500*l.* damages against the defendant, and costs.

The Hoddesdon Flint Monument.—At a recent meeting of the committee for this monument, it was unanimously resolved that it should be a marble statue, 8 feet 6 inches high, to stand on a pedestal erected in some public place. The necessary road the offers of two sculptors, Mr. Alfred Bromley, Leeds, and Mr. Mr. Noble, London; also a large number of testimonials in favour of the sculptors. Mr. H. Lord then moved that the commission be given to Mr. Bromley. A long and warm discussion ensued, which has been adjourned some fortnight.

Victoria Bridge, Glasgow.—The foundation-stone of this new bridge was laid on the site of old Stockwell bridge, with great ceremonial, on Wednesday, in last week, by the Duke of Athol, as Grand Master of the Freemasons for Scotland. The banks and places of business were closed, and the whole city was in holiday attire. A vast concourse of people witnessed the ceremonial, which went off with great *éclat*, in the midst of instrumental music and general enjoyment. The craft came out pretty strong in a procession, estimated to have numbered 7,500, with "splendid" insignia and ornaments, of no less than sixty-five lodges. The Grand Master was awaited by some of the spectators with a significant cry of "Glen Tilt!" The contractor, Mr. York, has the northern abutment and first pier nearly ready for the springers, and the cofferdam of the south land road is already far advanced.

Rugby Drainage Tenders.—In consequence of your giving the tenders for the supply of stoneware pipes for the Rugby drainage, headed with a forcible remark you expecting the discrepancy therein exhibited, I feel anxious that parties who take an interest in that and other work of a similar description should know the cause of the great difference. It is observable that those who tender so very low have country establishments. I would therefore suggest to any one who may wish to ascertain the difference in quality between country and Lambeth pipes to take a fair sample of each, break them, test the body, and judge for themselves. I can only say, that had I known that any other but the Lambeth pipes would have been allowed to be used, I should not have tendered, the competition being scarcely unequal. I hope, in justice to others as well as myself, you will give insertion to these remarks.—Thomas Smith.

Farm Buildings.—A Bill has been brought in by Mr. Cochrane and Mr. Forbes, to extend the provisions of "The Drainage of Lands Act, 1849," to the advance of private money for the erection and repair of farm buildings on lands in Great Britain and Ireland. It proposes to give landlords the power to borrow money for this purpose, provided always the sum borrowed or advanced under the Act does not exceed in amount eighteen months' value of the land in respect of which it is borrowed. Every rent-charge to be granted in respect of money thus borrowed may be made payable for any period exceeding twenty-two years, but not exceeding thirty years. All buildings erected or improved under the Act must be insured against fire.

Magnetic Power in Moving and Stopping Trains.—A patent specification has been enrolled by J. P. P. Ambergé, of Paris, civil engineer, who claims—1. The application of magnetic power to brakes upon railways. 2. The application of magnetic power to give adhesion to wheels of carriages on rails. 3. The employment of iron filings (in making the electro-magnets) to increase the surfaces of contact. 4. The application of magnetic power to moving carriages as described. 5. The application and use of the said magnetic power as a motive-power, as described.

Patent Law Amendment.—On the motion of Lord Brougham in the House of Lords the Patent Law Amendment Bill has been read a second time, and referred to a select committee; and on the motion of Earl Granville, the Patent Law Amendment (No. 2) Bill has also been read a second time, and referred to the same committee.

Road-making.—A correspondent, who believes that late experiments in road-making, of all descriptions, chiefly fail from want of a previously formed foundation, suggests that the ground be first solidified by some sort of pile-driving apparatus. A small engine of three-horse power, he thinks, moved by men or horses, according to circumstances, might possibly answer.

Idem Views.—Mr. Alfred Phillips, at the Royal Apollonicon Rooms, St. Martin's-lane, has introduced "dissolving views" to illustrate a pleasant musical and literary entertainment there given.

Extraordinary Cooperage.—An invention has been patented for constructing casks, barrels, puncheons, and everything in the cooperage line, by machinery. The invention is in operation at the St. Rollox Works, Glasgow. The staves of an ordinary-sized cask are said to be prepared, put together, and headed in little more than ten minutes,—cutting and joining done with mathematical precision, and the hand needed only to arrange the staves and fix the heads. The patentee is Mr. James Robertson, formerly of Liverpool.

Art-Union of London.—The annual meeting for the distribution of prizes will be held on this occasion at the *Lyceum Theatre*, Strand, on Tuesday, April 29. Mr. Mathews having in the kindest manner given the council the use of the house for this purpose. The subscription lists will remain open until the 26th.

St. George's Hall, Bradford, Competition.—We have received a note from the successful competitors, in reply to the letters which have appeared in our journal. The reply, however, does not touch the point at issue, namely, whether the plans can be carried out for the sum rigidly stipulated by the committee.

Fund for the late Editor of the Literary Gazette.—A strong committee has been organised, we are glad to see, to raise funds to place Mr. Jerdan, the founder, and, for thirty-four years, editor of the *Literary Gazette*, in a position of comfort for the rest of his life. We shall have something to say on the subject.

Supply of Water to the Metropolis.—It is stated that Government have abandoned the idea of adopting any of the proposals for the supply of water, but that a proposition will be submitted to Parliament having for its object the taking up all the water companies, giving 6 per cent. interest on the capital invested.

The Museum of Economic Geology, Piccadilly.—It is proposed that this museum shall be opened on the 28th or 29th of this month, probably by H.R.H. Prince Albert in person. No one can say that the officers here have been hurried in their arrangements.

Artificial Marble.—Mr. St. Clair Mannin, of New Broad-street, has patented some improvements in the manufacture of artificial marble and stone, and in treating marble and stone. He claims the employment of nitric acid in the white and naturally veined marbles, and a mode of obtaining the compound colours, which may be tripled and quadrupled by multiplying the processes,—also the same process when applied to old, inferior, or decrepitating marbles, whereby they are effectually strengthened and dyed.—*Mechanics' Magazine.*

Falmouth Union Workhouse Competition.—I send you the amounts of tenders for the Union Workhouse at Falmouth lately competed for. The sum placed at the command of the architects was 3,200*l.* whereas the lowest tender for the selected design is 4,250*l.*

G. Powell, Penryn	£5,401	0	0
Pirtey and Salmon, Truro	4,942	10	0
Gorrell and Salmon, Truro	4,860	0	0
Prior, Truro	4,550	0	0
T. Olver, Falmouth	4,250	0	0

Amount of contract entered into with T. Olver, 4,375*l.* inclusive of foundation and boundary walls.

TENDERS

For the Merthyr Union, each person taking out his own quantities:—

M. Davis	£9,531
J. Gabe	8,878
W. Jones	8,963
H. Price	8,440
W. Hambleton	8,300
J. Daniels	8,123
M. Lecock	8,000
W. James	7,863
Thomas C. Morris	7,665
C. Robbins	7,650

For the erection of a new Parsonage-house for the Rev. J. Cass, of Millbrook, in the county of Bedford:—

Wildman	£2,360	10	0
Chantrell	1,218	0	0
Tomlinson	1,200	0	0
Welch	1,111	0	0
Bennett	1,050	0	0
Cole and Masters, of Bedford	980	0	0

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